



IT University Travel Report

Host university: University of Technology Sydney

Study Programme at IT University: Computer Science

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Study Abroad (fee-paying student)

Courses studied abroad: Introduction to Quantum Computing, Fundamentals of Data Analytics, Enabling Enterprise Information Systems, Project Management

Period studying abroad: Spring 2024

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My stay abroad

What was it like to study at the university (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

University life in Sydney was quite different to that of ITU. Starting off, the campus was massive compared to that of ITU making it an entirely different experience going to lectures. Lectures were 1-3 hours depending on the course with exercises following after. The computer science classes were a little later than that back home, meaning I had classes until 21:00 once a week. I chose to do a mixture of hard mathematical classes and less technical classes that I found important for my future career. The academic level of these classes varied, but in general the content was not hard to understand, but the workload was a lot higher than at ITU. By this I mean that there were more assignments as well as longer assignments than back at ITU. Additionally, grades are not entirely exam dependent, but rather each assignment contributes to a percentage of your final grade. I found this quite refreshing, as this required me to stay active throughout the year, without having as much exam pressure.

The social part of university was amazing. Everyone who goes on exchange are heavily invested in creating new connections and were in general very enjoyable people. I met people from the entire world and met people I would consider to be some of my closest friends. I highly recommend going if you want to meet some amazing people and create lifelong connections. A benefit of going to Australia is cheap coffee, and I often found myself having a daily coffee break with my mates.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

I will not lie, I sent an application pretty spontaneously. I was unsure whether or not I wanted to go, but going on exchange seemed like a nice change of pace from university life back home. I chose Sydney as it was a part of the world I had never been to, and wanted to experience a different culture while studying. Additionally, when else are you going to have the opportunity to go to the other side of the world for half a year? I found the laid-back culture fascinating and challenging to my standard routine, and therefore Sydney seemed like an experience that would be hard to come by later. Australia lived up to all of my expectations, and I adopted the surfing culture quite quickly.

Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?

Going on exchange was one of the best decisions I have made. I found a nice balance of school and social life which made the stay all the more enjoyable. As mentioned before, I met people I now would consider some of my closest friends, which just highlights how nice people were. I did not meet a lot of people studying computer science, meaning I got to learn a lot more about other industries and study lines. As for the academic part, I never really felt overwhelmed, but still challenged. The technical classes were definitely harder than the non-technical ones, and it was a good opportunity to try out some areas that are not offered at ITU. The workload did present me with an opportunity to learn how to stay concentrated for a lot longer, which will definitely benefit me later on when writing my thesis.

Arranging my stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

The process of arranging my stay was pretty straightforward. ITU was very helpful with making arrangements and quick to reply to the questions that I did have. It is however a time-consuming process (especially VISA). As long as you are aware of the deadlines and start early you should be fine.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?

The UTS website was a big help for applying. They have a step-by-step guide that will help ensure a smooth process.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I applied to the university housing and stayed there for my entire stay. I did have to get up at 3 am to apply, as it was a first come first served deal. I would recommend the student housing to anyone going to UTS.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Sydney is slightly more expensive than Copenhagen. Certain items are a lot more expensive than back home, however things such as coffee cost next to nothing. Eating out is also generally cheaper than in Denmark. The big difference is housing costs, as these tend to be a lot more expensive than back home.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

I applied for 3 grants and got 2 ('Knud Højgaards Fonden' and 'William Demant Fonden'). I would highly recommend these, as the application process is straightforward and you can apply rather early.

Recommendations for other students:

I would recommend everyone to try going exchange at some point throughout their study life. It was a challenging and refreshing experience that was very beneficial to me. I recommend attending all the social events in the beginning, as it is a good way of meeting a bunch of new people. Additionally, reach out to the people you enjoyed talking to and arrange stuff to do. Everyone wants to go out and enjoy their time, but not everyone is comfortable with being the first one to reach out. Furthermore, as important as school is, go out and travel during your stay. You can read ahead or catch up when you come back from these travels, but 6 months go by in a flash. Australia is a huge country, and every part has varying natural aspects and cultures to experience. You probably will not be able to see it all, so prioritize what you want to see. Finally, if you are interested in hearing more about studying abroad in Sydney (and/or Australia), don't hesitate to reach out :)